

SPEED ENFORCEMENT TASK FORCE MEETING MINUTES

Thursday August 13, 2020, 4:00 p.m, via Zoom

Present Rich Baker, Lorraine Banbury, Joshua Auerback, Justin Campbell, Margaret Campbell, Kathleen Hayes, Kathleen Hayes

At 4:00 p.m. the meeting was called to order by Rich Baker

Changes or additions to the agenda: None

Public Comment: none

Review meeting protocol and format

The Open Meeting Law was reviewed. Meetings require 48-hour notice and minutes must be taken and posted on the town web site.

Decide roles

Rich agreed to Chair the meetings. It is anticipated that there will be 3 to 4 meetings via Zoom.

Review charge of task force and timeline

The task force reviewed the town meeting vote regarding speed enforcement. The task force is to recommend to the Selectboard on how to best use the \$8,000 allocated by town vote. The pandemic resulted in a delay in forming the task force.

Review existing ideas for speeding abatement and identify what we already know about those options

The task force discussed the following options regarding speed enforcement:

- Using permanently mounted speed radar signs
- Using the existing speed trailer
- Enhancing speed enforcement by the law enforcement
- Installing speed bumps
- Using Calibrated speed bumps (as used in Denmark)

Issues addressed regarding the above include:

- Using permanently mounted speed radar signs: Signs cannot be moved and may not be effective with chronic speeders. There was a question whether there are signs that can take photographs of speeders. Photographs, whether taken by the sign or by residents, could be useful to law enforcement.

- Using the existing speed trailer: The trailer has not been used in recent years and is owned jointly with Cabot. In addition, there was no good way to move the trailer from site to site. Wes offered to explore the potential use of the trailer.
- Enhancing speed enforcement by the law enforcement: The town currently has a contract with the sheriff's department. The state police may contract for enforcement, but the sheriff department would be less expensive. Rich will investigate the aspects of the current contract and what would be needed to amend it with more funds. There may also be an option to have a joint contract with other towns. Rich will also investigate the potential revenues from tickets. Justin said that the Village Trustees have been considering providing some additional funding for speed enforcement.
- Installing speed bumps: This option was determined to not be a good option since most roads are dirt or state roads.
- Using calibrated speed bumps (as used in Denmark): This option was determined not to be a good option since it would be beyond the level of funding.

Discuss hot spots for speeding

The following area were identified as hot spots for speeding:

Village area

- Route 2
- Route 232
- Maple Hill Road
- Cabot Road

Lorraine will post a survey on Front Porch Forum to seek public input on other hot spots.

There was also a discussion about lowering speed limits. Rich said that VTRANS has criteria for lowering speed limits. Rich will investigate what are the requirements for the town to lower speed limits on town roads.

Recommendation

The task force recommended the following on how to utilize the \$8,000 of funding to the Selectboard:

- Allocate \$6,000 towards the sheriff department for additional enforcement
- Set aside \$2,000 towards possible repairs of the speed trailer if it is found to be useful

The meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m. The next meeting will be September 3rd at 4:30 pm via Zoom. The public will be invited.

Respectfully submitted,
Rich Baker